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Division of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
BLOODSTAIN PROCEDURES MANUAL	Effective Date: 15-October-2004

#### 6 DETERMINATION OF BLOODSTAIN PATTERN CATEGORIES

## 6.1 Size, Shape and Distribution of Stains

- 6.1.1 By studying the size, shape and distribution of stains at a scene or found on items of evidence, the stains may be placed in one of the following categories.
  - 6.1.1.1 Passive (Falling/Dripping)

Blood drop created or formed by the force of gravity acting alone. These are characterized by larger, circular stains.

### 6.1.1.2 Projected

Blood is being propelled or expelled by a force greater than gravity, such as:

- 6.1.1.2.1 Cast-off Blood being released or projected off of a blood bearing object in motion, usually on a backswing. Cast-off patterns are characterized by clusters from sudden termination or "in-line" staining.
- 6.1.1.2.2 Expirated Blood being blown out of a nose, mouth, or wound as a result of air pressure or air flow. Expirated patterns may display similar characteristics of impact spatter but differ in pattern continuity.

# 6.1.1.3 Arterial Spurting/Gushing

Blood exiting the body from a breached artery. Arterial patterns are characterized by larger volume stains and may show pressure variations due to the injury.

#### 6.1.1.4 Impact

Blood being compressed by some force causing it to be broken into smaller droplets. These stains are characterized by various sizes and random distribution.

### 6.1.1.5 Contact

The possibilities of characteristics range from a rough object outline to fine detail (such as a bloody fingerprint) and/or "feathering" (which may indicate directionality of motion).

- 6.1.1.5.1 Transfer Blood being transferred from a bloody object or surface to a non-bloody object or surface.
- 6.1.1.5.2 Swipe Blood being transferred from a bloody object or surface to a non-bloody object or surface with motion.
- 6.1.1.5.3 Wipe Existing blood being disturbed by an object.

**♦**End